

RURAL DEVELOPMENT RECOGNIZES PATHWAYS TO PROSPERITY EMPLOYEES

December 15, 2009 - USDA Rural Development State Director Jasper Schneider today announced that the Agency is recognizing four Pathways to Prosperity employees, with certificates of appreciation for their work in promoting Rural Development's Single Family Housing programs.



(L-R) Jasper Schneider, Rural Development State Director, Anna Sarcia, Erika Malaterre, Alexis Marcellais, and Norman McCloud.

Pathways to Prosperity employees Norman McCloud, Alexis Marcellais, Erika Malaterre, and former employee Anna Sarcia were recognized for their roles in reaching out and providing assistance to single family applicants in the Turtle Mountain area.

“Today we give a special ‘thank you’ to Norman, Alexis, Erika, and Anna, for your dedication in assisting families and individuals with their housing needs,” said Schneider. “This is a good example of a group of individuals wanting to make a difference in people’s lives in a rural community.”

Rural Development’s relationship with Pathways to Prosperity began over two years ago when the tribal leadership recognized that many tribal members, and others within the community, could benefit from Rural Development Single Family Housing Programs but lacked the ability to readily access the programs. It was at that time Pathways to Prosperity began to work directly with the Rural Development office in Minot by assisting families and individuals within the community to apply for Rural Development single family housing loans and grants. Their employees assisted families complete application packages to obtain funds to make essential home repairs, remove health and safety concerns in their homes, and in some cases to purchase a home.

“Pathways to Prosperity and specifically the employees recognized today have provided an invaluable service to their community in assisting interested families and individuals with their housing applications” continued Schneider. “The ability to reach these families and individuals with our programs help us to provide affordable and safe housing which is consistent with our vision of improving the quality of life to rural North Dakotans,” said Schneider.

Since October 2008, Pathways to Prosperity has assisted over 60 interested families and individuals apply for Rural Development single family housing loan and grant services. Since that time, over \$209,000 in housing assistance has been provided in the Turtle Mountain area.

In Fiscal Year 2009, USDA Rural Development provided \$56.4 million in housing programs, \$79.7 million in business and community programs, and \$647.1 million in electric programs to North Dakota citizens.

Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA Rural Development’s Web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>.